

February 5, 2008

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: Iowa Christian Alliance
939 Office Park Road, Suite 115
West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 225-1515 or www.iowachristian.com

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SECRETARIAT

2008 FEB -7 P 4:26

SENSITIVE

MUR # 5972

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my belief that Steve Scheffler, President of the Iowa Christian Alliance, and the Iowa Christian Alliance (ICA) violated campaign finance laws and possibly jeopardized their tax exempt status by working to influence an election during the Iowa Caucuses.

Attached please find the following:

1. MSNBC article dated 12/4/07, "Iowa group trying to undermine Huck?"
2. Segment of "New York Times" blog, by Michael Luo that contains an endorsement for Governor Mitt Romney on 12/29/07 by the Iowa Christian Alliance Chairman of the Board and Treasurer, Morris Hurd.
3. An email from NBC reporter, Carrie Dunn that contains a Romney press release entitled, "Michigan conservative leader Marlene Elwell endorses Mitt Romney" dated 01/14/08.

It is my belief that Steve Scheffler was aware of Marlene Elwell's intentions for using the ICA office, office equipment, conference room and possibly their database. I also believe that he knew Elwell was supportive of Mitt Romney and that their main objective was to influence Christian conservatives to vote for Mitt Romney and not Mike Huckabee. It is also my belief that the ICA may have received a financial contribution from a Romney source in order to utilize their database.

It is important to note that Marlene Elwell admitted during our meeting that she was being paid, but would not reveal the source. Additionally, Elwell was a guest at the Best Western Walnut Creek Inn; 1258 5th Street; West Des Moines, IA 50265 (515) 223-1212 from the beginning of December until January 3rd, the date of the Iowa Caucus. This hotel is located across the street from the ICA offices. I believe she may have had access to the ICA database during non business hours.

Others in attendance at the 12/01/07 meeting at the Iowa Christian Alliance office were Iowa State Representative Ralph Watts and Mrs. Esther Norris

Thank you for consideration,

Stacey Lynn Carroll
Stacey Lynn Carroll

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Subscribed and sworn to
before me on this 5 day
February 2008

MELANIE SAYLOR
Notarial Seal - IOWA
Commission No. 744967
My Commission Expires Dec. 12, 2009

M. Saylor 2/5/08

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Iowa group trying to undermine Huck?

Posted: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 12:45 PM by Mark Murray
Filed Under: 2008, Huckabee

From NBC/NJ's Carrie Dana

When Romney supporter Jim Bopp said last week that "a vote for any other candidate in the Iowa caucuses is a vote for Rudy Giuliani," it raised a few GOP eyebrows. The reason wasn't the mere fact that Bopp made the claim, which he followed up with knocks on the electability of Romney rival Mike Huckabee, but rather that he made it at a house party hosted by the Iowa Christian Alliance, a powerful conservative group in the state that has promised not to endorse. His remarks preceded a speech by Romney himself, and they followed a powerful diatribe by ICA president Steve Scheffler — a known Giuliani opponent — who said that the election of the former New York mayor would result in a "bloodbath" within the Republican Party.

The whole exchange started whispers that the ICA's fear of a Giuliani presidency was fueling an effort to undermine the candidacy of upstart evangelical candidate Gov. Mike Huckabee. That's because Huckabee's recent surge in Iowa could be seen as a boon for Giuliani, who needs Mitt Romney to hit some bumps in the road before February 5th to protect the effectiveness of his Super Tuesday strategy.

Enter *this* email that Scheffler sent to the ICA mailing list yesterday. "It has come to my attention that an individual called into [Iowa radio host] Jan Mickelson's program this morning," he writes. "The caller said that Marlene Elwell was using the Iowa Christian Alliance telephones for the purpose of encouraging people not to support Mike Huckabee." (Elwell is a pro-life activist and a former McCain staffer who was fired in the campaign's early shakeup. Scheffler describes her as a longtime friend.)

The email continues: "Upon Marlene's request I gave her permission to make phone calls from the ICA office... I have absolutely no knowledge of what she was talking about or what she said on the phone."

More: "Iowa Christian Alliance is not involved in any activity against Mike Huckabee... Marlene Elwell has been told that she can not use our offices and telephones for any purpose in the future."

Elwell says that the caller's claim is "absolutely wrong." She says that although she has been making calls to "get the lay of the land," she argued that "most of the people I've talked to in Iowa have been people that I know." And she insists that she did not use ICA phone lines for any of those calls.

But the woman who phoned in to Mickelson's show disagrees. Stacey Cargill of West Des Moines says that Elwell — whom she has known for about a year — called her on Friday to invite her to an ICA meeting the next day featuring Jim Bopp. During that call, Cargill says, Elwell called Huckabee a "spoiler" and said that she was working to "slow down Huckabee's momentum." Cargill says that the call came from an ICA extension, according to her telephone's caller ID.

When Cargill attended the meeting on Saturday morning, Bopp had cancelled his visit due to the weekend ice storm. But Scheffler and Elwell were both there to talk politics with the small group that battled the snow. Cargill says — and another source confirms — that although the two were adamant that ICA did not endorse candidates, Scheffler spoke highly of Romney and said that Huckabee will not be able to win the Republican nomination. Skeptical of their

motives, Cargill decided to tell her story on Mickelson's conservative WHO-Radio talk show yesterday.

Cargill is a self-described supporter of John McCain.

Reached for comment this morning, Scheffler reiterated that the ICA would "never ever condone" the use of its phones for the alleged calls, and he expressed regret at unknowingly enabling Elwell to possibly pursue an "unstated mission" at the organization's expense. He added that although there may have been words exchanged between members of his organization about Huckabee's unelectability, "they certainly haven't parted my lips."

"Why would we take potshots at a guy who is with us by and large on the issues?" he asked.

A spokesman for the Romney campaign said that there is "no coordination whatsoever" between Romney and the ICA on any efforts to undermine Huckabee's campaign.

[Main page](#)

 **EMAIL THIS**

 **Comments**

Romney's a wolf in sheeps clothing. Uses tactics like Hillary to win and is a flip-flopper. Thompson is a sleep and to busy acting like his not. Giuliani is to close to organized crime and has no christian credentials. Mike Hucakabee is a true regan republican who has regular people in his goals and plans for America. I like Mike!

Thomas Bell, Eden, North Carolina (Sent Tuesday, December 04, 2007 1:05 PM)

Try and undermine Mike Huckabee all you want. The more they do it the more publicity he gets, the more publicity he gets the more people learn that he is a genuinely honest and humble, and the more people really "LIKE MIKE." If a 1.1 percent increase in taxes in Ark., a released convicted rapist and murderer that Mike (why not blame a parole board?) pardoned, and that he is an unbelievable man of God, is all the dirt you find on Mike, then he is far and away the best candidate for the job. You people make me laugh my head off. Nice try, better luck next time. Huckabee has my vote for President!! and a vote for Huckabee is a vote for ONLY Huckabee. You just wish you could be winning in Iowa having only spent LESS than \$500,000.

Josh C. MS (Sent Tuesday, December 04, 2007 1:35 PM)

So Romney is going to make a speech about his religion- the question is will he be honest and open with the American people . Will he for example tell them that as a Mormon he believes that Jesus is the Devil's brother . That view alone demonstrates that Romney is not remotely Christian . Romney also believes that there are many gods and that he himself by being a good Temple Mormon can become a god .

Andrew Price London (Sent Tuesday, December 04, 2007 1:53 PM)

I'm growing ever more curious about your lack of coverage on Ron Paul. We obviously will not find him here in your pocket. Forward, march.

Brandi Fehelley, Jonesboro, AR (Sent Tuesday, December 04, 2007 1:55 PM)

Josh C- <<unbelievable man of god>> That makes him qualified to be President? When asked by a viewer what would

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Tuesday January 1, 2008

Romney Lands Big Christian Right Endorsement

Current Reading: 6

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As Mitt Romney has trumpeted endorsement after endorsement from evangelical and Christian Right figures, God-o-Meter has often been skeptical about their impact, feeling they reveal more nervousness than confidence in the Romney camp about getting evangelical votes. But that's not the case with last weekend's Romney endorsement from Iowa Christian Alliance chairman Morris Hurd. The group is the strongest Christian Right organization in Iowa by far, with real power to deliver votes and organizing muscle. From *The New York Times* [Caucus Blog](#):

Mitt Romney got a surprise endorsement on Saturday from the Rev. Morris Hurd,



TIME: 1



Candid

- Democr
- Barack C
- Bill Rich
- Chris Do
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- John Ed
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- Duncan
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- Ron Pau
- Rudy Gi
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Recent P

- Romney's Right Ends

chairman of the Iowa Christian Alliance, a prominent conservative Christian group in the state, as he introduced the former Massachusetts governor at a rally tonight.

Officials with the group typically avoid making public endorsements because of their tax-exempt status, but Mr. Hurd blurted out his decision tonight in what felt like a bit of an accident.

"I'll tell you a little secret," he told the audience of more than 200 people. "I haven't told anybody else this. I'll tell this secret out here. Next Thursday, when I go to the caucuses, I'm going to cast my vote for Governor Mitt Romney."

Comments (3)

Filed Under: Christian Right, endorsements, Iowa Christian Alliance, Mitt Romney

posted by Dan Gilgoff @10:10am [Permalink](#) [Email This](#) [Add to:](#)

COMMENTS

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Remember that Satan asked Jesus permission to test Peter. These Evangelicals supporting Romney may be dancing with the Devil. But certainly they are yoking themselves with an unbeliever and failing the testing laid down by the Apostles. I guess political power is truly a seducing power.

Posted by: Donny | January 1, 2008 10:19 PM

Donny

Get a grip. If evangelicals are expected to vote for only evangelicals they are way too similar to the growing threat called "muslim extremism". Go dance with that devil why don't ya.

Posted by: nebruski | January 2, 2008 2:57 PM

Romney almost had my vote until I heard him on television state, "I will not "" any one religion". Well I would assume he lost God's vote on this one as there is only "One Church" in God's Bible. And Romney does support his Mormonism over other "Believers." He surely lost my vote and my families.

Posted by: Laurel | January 6, 2008 10:43 AM

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From: "Dann, Carrie (NBC Universal)"
To:
Date: 1/14/2008 11:08:28 AM
Subject: Fyl

2008 FEB -7 P 4:29

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2008

CONTACT: Romney Press Shop
(857) 288-8390

**MICHIGAN CONSERVATIVE LEADER MARLENE ELWELL
ENDORSES MITT ROMNEY**

Boston, MA – Today, Marlene Elwell, noted pro-life leader and Founder and President of Catholics in the Public Square, endorsed Governor Mitt Romney for President. Marlene was also at the helm of the successful "Marriage Protection Amendment" campaign in Michigan in 2004 that preserves marriage in the Michigan Constitution as between one man and one woman.

"I am proud to support Governor Romney in this campaign," said Marlene Elwell. "He grew up here in Michigan and shares our values. He will continue to advocate policies to promote stronger families and stand up for traditional marriage and the defense of life at every opportunity as our nation's President. Governor Romney's proven record and optimistic vision for the future of Michigan and our country will strengthen our nation for future generations."

A recent mail piece by Senator John McCain promoting his pro-life certification from "Pro-Life Federation of Michigan" prompted Marlene to announce her support of Governor Romney. Marlene continued, "There is one voice that for decades has stood for the pro-life community and that is National Right to Life and in Michigan, its affiliate, Right to Life of Michigan. Senator McCain's mailing threatens the integrity of one of the most consistent and conscientious guardians of life in the nation."

Marlene Elwell, who helped write and lead the fight for adoption of the pro-life plank in the national GOP party platform, is available for additional comments on this matter at (248) 477-5108.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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